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Alabama Business is a monthly publication of the Center for Business and Economic Research of The University of Alabama College of Business Administration. Articles reflect the opinions of the authors, but not necessarily those of the staff of the Center, the faculty of the College of Commerce and Business Administration, or the administrative officials of The University of Alabama.

UNDERSTANDING THE ECONOMY

Deborah Hamilton

Several years ago the Hearst Corporation conducted a survey entitled "The American Public's Knowledge of Business and the Economy." One of the objectives of the survey was to measure the American public's level of knowledge about basic economic concepts. The resulting responses seemed to indicate that there was a lack of understanding by the general public about fundamental terms pertaining to the national economy.

How well would you do on such a survey? The following quiz contains selected questions from the 1984 Hearst survey plus some additional questions specific to the Alabama economy.

1. Every percentage point of the national unemployment rate represents about how many people?
   a. about 100,000
   b. about 500,000
   c. about 1 million

2. How many people in the United States are unemployed?
   a. under 1 million
   b. about 8 million
   c. about 26 million

3. What is the national unemployment rate?
   a. about 3 percent
   b. about 7 percent
   c. about 12 percent

4. How many people in the United States have a full-time nonagricultural job?
   a. under 40 million
   b. about 70 million
   c. about 100 million

5. True or false: The Gross National Product (GNP) is the total value of all the goods and services that will be purchased by federal, state and local governments during one year.

6. True or false: The consumer price index (CPI) is a measure of how much some typical goods and services currently cost in comparison to what they used to cost.

7. The legal minimum wage is currently _____.

8. How many people in Alabama are unemployed?

9. What is Alabama's unemployment rate?

10. How many people in Alabama are employed?

Survey Results and Answers

Question 1. The Hearst survey found that only a quarter (26 percent) of the American public understood that every percentage point of the national unemployment rate represented about one million people in 1984.

Question 2. Almost two out of five (37 percent) correctly knew that the number of Americans unemployed in 1984 was about 8 million (Update: April 1987 preliminary data = 7.3 million unemployed).

Question 3. More than half of Americans (53 percent) did not know the national unemployment rate (April 1987 preliminary = 6.2 percent U.S. unemployment rate).

Question 4. Nearly four out of five (79 percent) surveyed did not know the number of Americans employed (April 1987 preliminary = 111 million total employed).

Question 5. More than half (60 percent) of those surveyed did not understand Gross National Product. GNP is the market value of a nation's total output of goods and services.

Question 6. A majority of Americans (68 percent) knew that the CPI is a measure of how much some typical goods and services currently cost in comparison to what they used to cost.

Question 7. A large majority of Americans (86 percent) knew that the current legal minimum wage is $3.35.

Questions 8-10. Based upon April 1987 preliminary data from the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, there were 152,300 unemployed persons in Alabama. The unemployment rate was 8.2 percent and total employment was 1,711,300.

Sources: The Hearst Corporation, 959 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10019; Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Research and Statistics Division. □

NEWS BRIEFS

WOMEN IN THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

Striking changes in the economic pursuits and status of women have marked the last two decades, according to a recent report issued by the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of the Census.

More women are in the labor force than ever before; they are more likely to have continuous lifetime work experience; they are better educated; and the law mandates greater opportunity for equal employment. And yet, as a group, most women continue to work in traditionally female, low-paying occupations.

Highlights of the report *Women in the American Economy include:*

- The number of women in the civilian labor force in 1985 averaged 51.1 million (54.5 percent of women 16 years and over).
- In 1985, 31.5 million women held full-time, year-round jobs.
- The labor force participation rate of women 20 to 44 years was 71.4 in 1985.
- Younger women are increasingly delaying marriage and childbirth to attend college and establish careers.
- One out of five families with children is maintained by a woman.
- Over half of all children under 18 had a mother in the labor force in 1985.
- Twenty million mothers with children under 18 were in the labor force in March 1985, including eight million with children under age six.
- Over half of all married women with children under the age of six were in the labor force in 1985, compared with only 12 percent in 1950.
- Forty-eight percent of women with babies under one year old were in the labor force in 1985 as were over half the mothers with toddlers under age three.
- Forty-four percent of the children of mothers who work full time are cared for in another home (June 1982).
- College enrollment of women is now near that of men, but women still choose subjects of study that are different from those of men and less likely to lead to the higher-paying jobs.
- Women with young children have relatively high unemployment rates as compared with the rates of women overall.
- By 1995, 61.4 million women are projected to be in the labor force—a participation rate of 60 percent.
- The distribution of both men and women across occupations has changed, but the overall labor market remains sharply segregated by sex. Women have made progress, however, in entering managerial occupations.
- Women were about nine percent (150,000) of the total resident Armed Forces in 1985.
- Thirteen percent of women who worked year-round, full-time in 1984 had earnings greater than $25,000 compared with 46 percent of men.
- The poverty rate in 1984 for all families maintained by women was 34.5 percent; the comparable rate for black and Hispanic families was relatively high at 51.7 and 53.4 respectively.

Copies of the report, *Women in the American Economy*, Series P-23, No. 146, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., or from your nearest depository library. □

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

A recent report from the U.S. Commerce Department's Census Bureau examined the finances of public school systems having enrollments of 15,000 or more. The report provided statistics on the revenue, expenditure, debt, and financial assets for the nation, for states, and for a few large school systems in 1984-85. Some of the findings are as follows:

- The federal share of public school funding declined for the fifth straight year to about six percent in fiscal year 1984-85 from a high of nearly nine percent in 1980.
- Public school systems in the United States received $145.8 billion from all revenue sources and made expenditures totaling $142.4 billion in fiscal year 1984-85. Total revenue increased $11.9 billion, or 8.9 percent, and expenditure increased $11.9 billion, or 9.1 percent, over the previous fiscal year.

- Expenditure for school construction increased to $5.2 billion. Alabama spent $74,997 on construction for elementary and secondary schools in 1984-85.

- Public school systems spent over $88 billion, or about 62 percent of their general expenditure on salaries and wages. Alabama spent $1,137,782 on salaries and wages in elementary and secondary schools in 1984-85.

Copies of the report, *Finances of Public School Systems in 1984-85*, GF85, No. 10, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 or your nearest depository library. □

AMERICA'S PER CAPITA DEBT

Every American would have to contribute $10,050 to eliminate the combined federal, state, and local government debt as it stood in fiscal 1985.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the three levels of government indicated $2.4 trillion in debt outstanding for 1985.

Combined state and local debt per capita was highest for the residents of Alaska and North Dakota ($18,960 and $6,060, respectively). Residents of Mississippi and Idaho had the lowest levels of non-federal debt in the nation ($1,240 and $1,140, respectively). Alabama ranked 35th with a per capita debt of $1,920.

Copies of the report, *Governmental Finances in 1984-85*, GF85, No. 5, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. or your nearest depository library. □

FARM FACTS

A recently released fact sheet from the Alabama Agricultural Statistics Service reported the following:

- Alabama currently has 52,000 farms covering 11.0 million acres. Average farm size is 212 acres compared with 455 acres per farm across the United States.

- Total cash farm income from farm marketings in 1985 totaled $2.157 billion. Livestock and poultry accounted for 61 percent of the total with crops making up the balance. Sales of poultry and poultry products, cattle and calves, soybeans, peanuts, cotton, farm forest products, greenhouse and nursery products, and dairy products accounted for 85.3 percent of the total cash receipts from farm marketings in Alabama.

- In 1986 Alabama experienced one of the worst droughts in a century. Farmers suffered losses as a result of the drought from reduced yields, abandonment, burned pastures, loss of gain in cattle and chickens, and distressed livestock sales.

- Acres planted during 1986 for the five major crops (soybeans, cotton, peanuts, corn, and sorgum) showed an overall decline of 25 percent from 1985. The only acreage to show a significant increase was peanuts which was up nine percent. Alabama continues to rank second in the United States in peanut production.

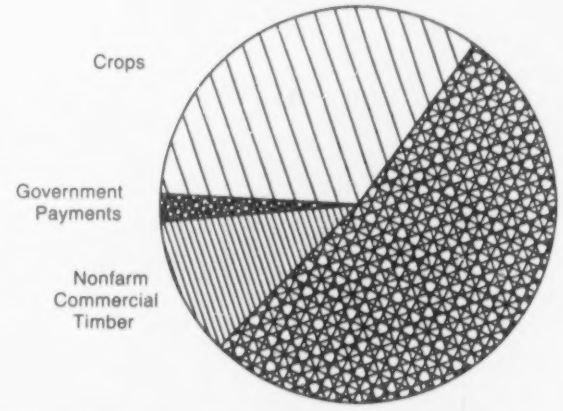
- Alabama cattle inventories on January 1, 1987 saw a 70,000 increase in number of head from a year ago to total 1,850,000. The state's milk producers reduced their herd size by 5,000 head from January 1, 1986, primarily due to the government's dairy cow buy-out program. Hog inventories on December 1, 1986 increased ten percent from a year earlier.

- Alabama ranks third in the United States in broiler production. Producers marketed 561.8 million birds in 1985. During 1986 laying flocks produced 2,723 million eggs, 71 million below 1985. The number of hens and pullets of laying age on December 1, 1986, totaled 11.2 million, down one percent from the same date a year ago.

For more information contact the Alabama Agricultural Statistics Service, P.O. Box 1071, Montgomery, Alabama 36192. □

ALABAMA CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS 1985

(Thousands of Dollars)



Livestock and Poultry	$1,307,761
Crops	849,491
Government Payments	60,364
Nonfarm Commercial Timber	283,896

METHODS OF POPULATION ESTIMATION PART II

James C. Raymondo

Introduction:

The May 1987 issue of *Alabama Business* contained Part I of this article which discussed the difference between a population estimate and a population projection and decribed two methods of population estimation. In Part II, three of the more complex methods of population estimation are discussed and suggestions for selecting an estimation method are made.

We begin with a discussion of Component Method II, the Administrative Records Method, and the Ratio Correlation Method of population estimation. These three techniques are the methods used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in their annual state and county population estimates.

Component Method II:

Component Method II estimates the separate components of population change (births, deaths, and net migration) for three broad age groups of the population, and is the successor to Component Method I. Component Method II involves calculating a net migration rate from elementary school enrollments in the estimate year and the base year, and then applying the migration rate to the under age 65 population.

Estimates for the under age 65 population are then made using vital statistics data and the migration rate. Estimates for the age 65 and over population are based on vital statistics data and changes in Medicare enrollment.

Component Method II proved to be a relatively reliable method of population estimation through most of the 1970s; however, the method began providing unreliable estimates for some states in the late 1970s. The problem seemed to result from assuming that migration rates derived from school age enrollments can be applied to the broader under-age-65 population. One solution to this problem was the development of the Administrative Records Method which involves a new way of estimating net migration.

Administrative Records Method:

The Administrative Records Method is a general component method similar in many ways to Component Method II. The major difference and the major advantage of the Administrative Records Method is the novel way in which net migration is estimated.

Federal revenue sharing placed increased importance on the accuracy of estimates coming out of the Census Bureau. In order to enhance the accuracy of the estimates used for revenue sharing, the Census Bureau was given access to migration data derived from Federal income tax returns.

The Census Bureau *was not* given access to confidential income data from the tax returns, but was simply given access to data indicating migration. Income tax returns are matched from year to year by comparing social security numbers and addresses.

Migration rates are based on matched returns from one year to the next which contain different addresses. The result is a rich source of migration data including not only the volume of migration, but the county of origin and the county of destination for migrants.

The computations for the Administrative Records Method are straightforward and similar to Component Method II. The under-age-65 population is estimated through vital statistics data on births and deaths, and estimates of net migration from matched tax returns. The age-65-and-over population is estimated through vital statistics data and Medicare enrollment data. Group quarters and military populations are estimated separately.

Ratio Correlation Method:

The Ratio Correlation Method differs from Component Method II and the Administrative Records Method in that it is not a component method. The Ratio Correlation Method is a regression approach that involves the development of a mathematical equation used to compute the population estimate.

Briefly, a regression analysis involves using information from a group of variables (usually referred to as the independent variables) to predict the value of some other variable (the dependent variable). In the case of population estimation the dependent variable we want to predict (or estimate) is the population of some area. The independent variables may take many forms. Frequent choices include: births, deaths, motor vehicle registrations, school enrollments, and voter registrations.

The equation for the Ratio Correlation Method is based on an analysis of the relationships between the set of independent variables and the population value from the second to last decennial census. In this case one would analyze data from 1970 in order to derive the estimation equation. The result is a set of weights, one for each of the independent variables, that when multiplied

by the value of each independent variable and summed will add up to the population being estimated. The regression weights may then be applied to current values of the independent variables in order to derive the desired estimate.

The second-to-last decennial census is used in the development of the regression equation so that the validity of the equation can be tested against the most recent census. The same regression weights will be used during the decade for the estimates once a suitable regression equation is developed and tested. Only the current values of the independent variables will change. One additional complication in this method is that the actual values of the independent variables are not used in the equation. Suppose one is producing a county estimate and one of the independent variables is voter registrations. Rather than using the actual number of voter registrations as the independent variable to be multiplied by the regression weight, one would use a ratio of voter registrations in the county for the estimate year to total voter registrations in the state for the estimate year divided by the ratio of voter registrations in the county for the base year to total voter registrations in the state for the base year. A similar computation of ratios would be made for each of the independent variables.

One advantage of the Ratio Correlation Method is its flexibility. If a particular data series for one of the independent variables is no longer available one may create a new regression equation by reanalyzing the 1970 Census data and testing the new equation against the results of the 1980 Census. Such flexibility is not present in Component Method II.

Component Method II would be of no use if reliable school enrollment data were not available. Similarly, the loss of migration data from matched Federal income tax returns would be a fatal blow to the Administrative Records Method.

Selecting an Estimation Methodology:

Estimation methods vary in their precision, difficulty in computation, and data requirements. The Censal Ratio Method is one of the easiest techniques to use, provides reasonable estimates over a short term estimation period, and has modest data requirements. The technique is also easily applied to areas of different sizes.

The Housing Unit Method is also one of the less troublesome techniques to use, and provides reliable estimates. The Housing Unit Method is particularly well suited to small area estimates.

Many vital statistics rates are usually based on data reported at the county level, but housing unit data are more often reported at the municipal level, making the Housing Unit Method one of the most appropriate for subcounty estimates. However, there is a disadvantage with using the Housing Unit Method due to the difficulty in determining occupancy rates and average household sizes.

Component Method II and the Administrative Records Method have data requirements that place them beyond the range of many interested in making their own population estimates. Component Method II requires data on school enrollments, and these data are not always available. In many cases, reliable private school enrollments are difficult if not impossible to obtain.

Public school enrollments are available, but any change in the way the data are reported will cause problems with the method. For example, a change from reporting number of students enrolled to reporting average daily attendance will leave one with estimates of the size of the school age population that are not compatible. The Administrative Records Method requires migration data from Federal income tax returns that are made available only to the Bureau of the Census.

Finally, the Ratio Correlation Method can be used. This method is reliable and does not have extreme data requirements. The only difficulty is in obtaining a continuous time series of data for the independent variables selected for the regression equation.

Potential problems include an interruption in a time series or a change in the way some data are reported, and the considerable data processing required in developing, testing, and applying the regression equation.

Anyone interested in developing an in-house capability for population estimates may do well to follow the example of the Census Bureau. Their annual state and county level estimates are usually a composite estimate resulting from an average of their three methods. Of course, most of us do not have the facilities or access to confidential data to undertake such an ambitious approach.

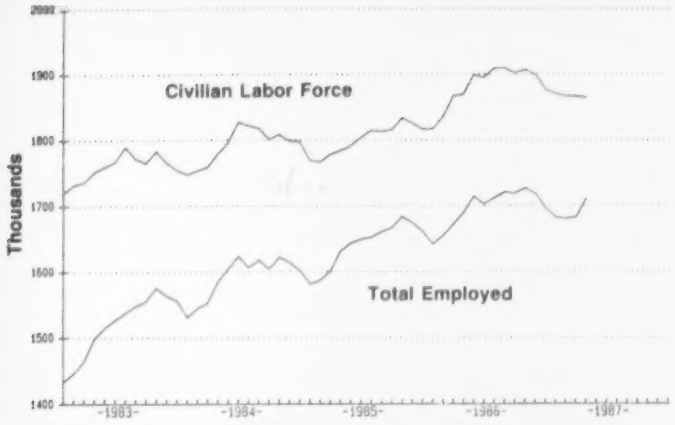
Those simply interested in obtaining the results of the Census Bureau's estimation work might refer to the P-25 and P-26 series of the *Current Population Reports*. These reports are available for a modest fee and provide the results of the most recent population or are estimates and population projections of the Census Bureau. Copies may be requested from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. □

CORRECTIONS

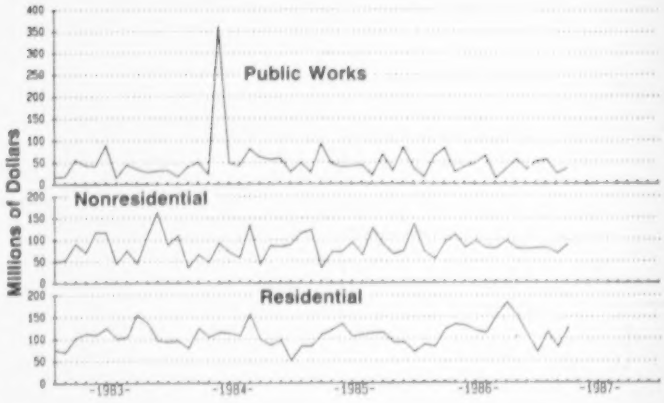
Please note two corrections in the article "Households Growing Faster" printed in the May issue of *Alabama Business*. The average population per household declined from 2.76 to 2.67 persons instead of percent. Also Alabama has gained approximately 122 thousand households (instead of 122 households) since 1980 for an increase of 9.1 percent. We regret any inconvenience these errors may have caused. □

ALABAMA BUSINESS AT A GLANCE

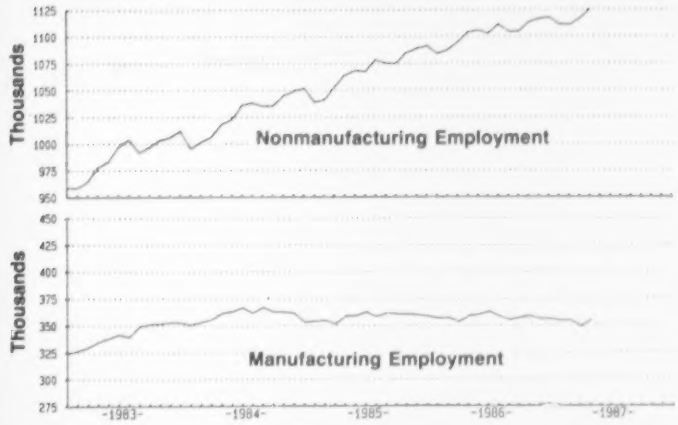
ALABAMA EMPLOYMENT



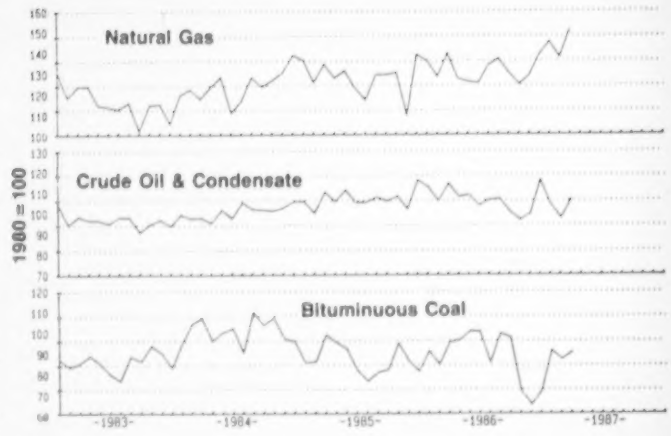
ALABAMA CONSTRUCTION



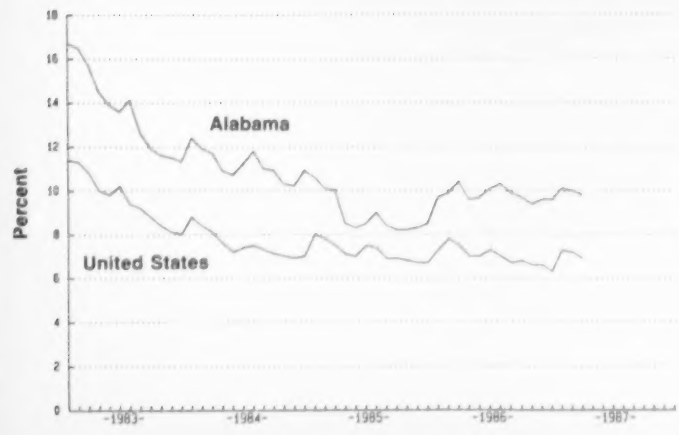
ALABAMA EMPLOYMENT BY SUBSECTOR



INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDICES



STATE AND NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT



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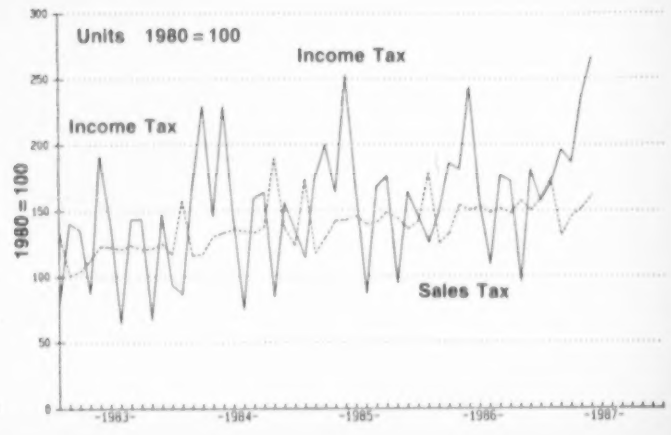

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS

FOR ALABAMA

Type of Activity	Annual		1986										1987		
	1985	1986	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
INDUSTRIAL															
Bituminous coal production[1] (1,000 net tons)	23,421	23,895	2,188	2,220	2,335	2,328	1,911	2,309	2,251	1,524	1,342	1,526	2,077	1,964	2,059
Natural gas production (1,000,000 cu. ft.)	142,268	146,936	13,164	11,816	11,641	11,542	12,534	12,864	12,104	11,490	11,992	13,096	13,776	12,930	14,400
Cotton consumption (1,000 lbs.)	341,068	419,377	41,574	33,528	35,926	32,592	27,600	36,498	37,642	38,686	34,120	37,743	42,579	36,400	40,766
Crude oil and condensate production[2] (1,000 barrels)	21,470	21,399	1,953	1,812	1,833	1,717	1,780	1,786	1,651	1,564	1,631	1,988	1,734	1,580	1,784
Electric energy consumption, industrial purposes (1,000,000 kwh)	23,537	23,314	1,813	1,919	1,906	2,019	2,036	2,057	2,003	2,006	1,934	1,857	1,865	1,845	1,982
Pulp, paper, and paperboard production (1,000 net tons)	6,292	6,485	558	556	548	541	523	526	496	576	543	560	590	531	582
CONSTRUCTION															
Building contracts awarded, new and alterations combined[3] ($1,000)	2,885,600	3,017,500	313,000	274,100	252,200	265,600	258,900	246,000	315,300	288,400	221,300	201,900	253,700	173,100	250,800
Residential	1,240,900	1,461,300	124,600	134,400	130,200	118,800	113,400	153,300	183,100	152,500	109,000	68,500	116,700	80,600	125,900
Nonresidential	1,062,900	1,016,300	105,200	111,800	80,900	97,800	79,800	79,400	97,200	78,600	78,000	80,500	80,400	67,800	88,400
Public works and utilities	581,800	539,800	83,100	27,900	41,000	49,100	65,600	13,300	35,000	57,300	34,300	52,900	56,600	24,700	36,500
Cement consumption (1,000 net tons)	1,306	1,334	123	131	117	124	121	119	117	126	85	75	85	86	110
FINANCE															
Savings in savings and loan associations[4] ($1,000,000)	6,287	6,707	6,659	6,675	6,710	6,746	6,752	6,737	6,751	6,768	6,735	6,767	6,804	6,879	6,893
Tax collections ($1,000)															
Total	2,772,554	2,846,837	267,352	270,377	267,639	219,772	216,052	235,312	243,326	222,747	235,033	223,165	265,163	224,952	278,960
Franchise	69,838	75,088	43,281	1,905	1,897	8,254	1,148	6,214	3,991	4,243	1,098	1,000	965	2,214	52,762
Gasoline (excl. aviation)	202,540	207,667	15,086	17,075	18,417	18,026	17,557	18,853	18,045	16,901	17,984	15,767	19,169	16,310	15,226
Income	1,084,829	1,099,406	105,706	103,081	138,293	88,800	62,009	100,506	97,971	54,502	102,972	89,540	97,096	111,484	105,908
Motor fuels	51,921	53,604	3,869	3,648	5,528	3,670	3,735	5,252	3,531	5,150	5,661	5,233	4,054	4,570	4,201
Oil/gas privilege	64,950	42,775	8,183	3,309	3,225	2,722	2,527	2,626	2,996	2,300	2,102	2,404	1,953	2,136	2,861
Oil/gas production	17,600	11,859	2,236	911	882	774	717	737	827	664	597	696	556	577	826
Sales	730,389	775,708	56,925	66,147	64,563	65,575	63,568	65,048	63,358	67,037	64,387	68,222	74,589	56,264	62,573
2.2/ gross receipts	54,972	56,147	1	13,363	600	0	13,951	43	0	14,231	0	0	14,212	0	140
TVA electric	42,844	45,346	3,719	3,719	3,719	3,719	3,719	7,438	4,191	0	3,842	3,842	3,842	3,842	3,842
Tobacco	72,774	73,282	5,799	5,432	6,528	6,336	6,504	6,280	6,082	6,368	6,031	6,214	5,907	5,083	5,469
Use	79,253	84,390	795	18,735	1,675	816	17,872	1,161	727	19,179	880	665	19,291	795	742
Utility	156,209	160,233	11,549	12,229	12,200	12,453	12,963	13,354	15,656	12,611	12,072	14,823	15,086	13,988	14,109
PRICES															
Consumer Price Index, U.S.[5] (1967 = 100)															
All items	322.2	328.4	326.0	325.3	326.3	327.9	328.0	328.6	330.2	330.5	330.8	331.1	333.1	334.4	335.9
Percent change	3.6	1.9	0.5	-0.2	.3	.5	.0	.2	.5	.1	.1	.1	.6	.4	.4
Food	309.8	319.7	315.4	316.1	317.0	317.1	320.1	322.7	323.2	323.7	324.6	325.2	328.9	330.1	330.0
Housing	349.9	360.2	357.0	358.0	358.5	361.2	361.5	362.4	363.7	363.0	361.7	362.1	363.9	365.1	366.4
Fuel and utilities	393.6	384.7	385.5	381.8	382.5	393.8	389.4	389.5	388.3	379.1	371.1	371.0	373.7	374.8	374.9
Apparel and upkeep	206.0	207.8	206.3	207.3	206.4	204.5	203.2	207.0	212.1	213.2	213.1	210.9	207.1	208.4	215.2
Transportation	319.9	307.5	309.6	303.3	305.7	308.6	304.7	301.3	302.2	302.6	304.3	304.8	308.5	310.0	310.6
Medical care	403.1	433.5	425.8	428.0	429.7	432.0	434.8	437.5	439.7	442.3	444.6	446.8	449.6	452.4	455.0
Energy	426.5	370.3	381.3	361.8	367.6	380.6	366.5	358.6	360.6	348.6	341.7	342.4	352.2	359.2	360.0
Producer Price Index, U.S. (1967 = 100)															
All commodities	308.8	299.8	300.3	298.2	299.2	299.0	297.4	297.2	297.5	298.3	298.7	298.1	300.9	302.7	302.8
Industrial commodities	323.8	312.1	314.0	311.6	311.7	311.8	308.5	307.9	308.7	309.3	309.8	309.3	313.6	315.7	315.8
Purchasing power of the dollar, U.S. (1967 = $1.00)															
As measured by															
Consumer prices	310	305	307	307	306	305	305	304	303	303	302	302	300	299	298
Wholesale prices	324	334	333	335	334	334	336	336	336	335	335	335	332	330	330
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT[6]															
Civilian labor force (1,000 workers)	1,801.0	1,882.0	1,866.4	1,868.9	1,898.8	1,894.5	1,909.1	1,909.9	1,902.0	1,906.7	1,898.9	1,875.7	1,869.7	1,865.9	1,865.9
Unemployment	160.0	185.0	194.6	179.6	184.7	192.2	197.6	189.5	183.6	180.1	181.6	179.8	188.1	185.7	183.6
Unemployment rate	8.9	9.8	10.4	9.6	9.7	10.1	10.3	9.9	9.7	9.4	9.6	9.6	10.1	10.0	9.8
Employment	1,641.0	1,697.0	1,671.8	1,689.3	1,714.1	1,702.3	1,711.5	1,720.4	1,718.4	1,726.6	1,717.3	1,695.9	1,681.6	1,680.2	1,682.3
Nonagricultural	1,427.0	1,461.4	1,447.9	1,462.6	1,465.9	1,465.3	1,469.5	1,459.6	1,461.8	1,472.0	1,473.0	1,474.0	1,466.1	1,465.4	1,465.8
Manufacturing	358.2	357.5	353.3	358.7	360.0	362.7	358.2	355.0	357.4	358.5	356.2	356.0	354.6	354.6	349.0
Durable goods	175.5	173.2	174.4	175.1	175.9	175.7	175.2	170.1	170.2	172.0	171.7	170.9	170.2	169.9	169.7
Lumber and wood products	29.3	28.5	28.7	28.5	28.6	28.7	28.4	28.4	28.4	28.4	28.5	28.5	28.4	28.1	28.0
Stone, clay, glass products	9.2	9.5	9.4	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.5
Primary metals	26.6	24.7	25.5	25.7	26.3	25.6	25.3	23.8	23.4	23.4	23.2	23.1	22.8	22.9	23.7
Fabricated metals	23.0	22.9	22.6	22.8	22.8	22.8	23.0	22.6	23.6	23.7	23.3	23.1	22.9	22.7	22.8
Machinery (excl. electrical)	19.8	20.2	20.2	20.3	20.3	20.4	20.4	20.5	20.3	20.1	20.0	20.1	20.4	20.5	20.6
Electrical, electronic equip.	22.8	22.2	22.5	22.4	22.5	22.6	22.3	21.6	21.6	21.6	21.9	22.0	22.0	21.7	20.8
Transportation	26.4	27.2	27.3	27.4	27.6	27.6	28.3	25.5	25.7	27.3	27.5	26.9	26.7	26.8	27.0
Other durable goods	18.5	18.0	18.2	18.3	18.1	18.3	17.8	18.0	17.6	18.0	17.9	17.8	17.5	17.6	17.3
Nondurable goods	182.7	184.3	178.9	183.6	184.1	187.0	183.0	184.9	187.2	186.5	184.5	185.1	184.4	184.7	179.3
Food	29.1	30.1	29.3	29.4	29.8	30.2	30.1	30.3	30.8	31.1	31.0	30.9	30.5	30.4	29.9
Textile mill products	36.4	37.5	36.7	37.3	37.2	37.8	37.5	38.0	37.7	37.9	37.8	38.0	38.1	38.3	38.0
Apparel	53.6	53.7	49.5	53.5	54.3	55.4	54.3	55.1	55.0	53.9	52.4	52.7	53.2	53.1	48.6
Paper and allied products	21.5	20.8	21.0	21.1	20.7	21.3	19.1	19.1	21.2	21.1	21.1	21.3	21.0	21.0	20.9
Printing and publishing	11.8	12.2	12.2	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.3	12.2	12.4	12.3	12.5	12.4
Chemicals and allied products	11.7	11.2	11.4	11.4	11.3	11.2	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.0	11.0	10.9	10.9	10.9
Rubber products	16.5	16.6	16.7	16.5	16.4	16.6	16.6	16.8	16.9	16.8	16.7	16.5	16.3	16.4	16.5
Other nondurable goods	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1
Nonmanufacturing	1,069.0	1,103.9	1,094.6	1,103.9	1,105.9	1,102.6	1,111.3	1,104.6	1,104.4	1,113.5	1,116.8	1,118.0	1,111.5	1,110.8	1,116.8
Mining and quarrying	14.5	12.4	13.2	12.8	12.5	12.3	12.0	12.0	11.7	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.7
Bituminous coal mining	10.6	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4
Contract construction	71.4	75.4	74.1	75.4	75.2	75.4	77.7	77.9	76.8	76.7	76.3	75.3	75.1	74.1	75.6
Trans., comm., and utilities	72.7	71.5	71.5	71.5	71.4	71.2	72.2	72.1	71.5	71.7	71.0	71.3	70.6	70.7	70.9
Trade	305.6	320.4	312.3	315.7	317.9	319.3	322.6	323.8	324.7	326.6	329.1	331.6	324.7	321.1	323.8
Wholesale	76.0	76.9	76.7	76.4	76.7	76.8	77.7	77.4	77.4	77.7	77.2	76.4	76.1	76.3	76.6
Retail	229.6	243.5	235.6	239.3	241.2	242.5	244.9	246.4	247.3	248.9	251.9	255.2	248.6	244.8	247.2
Finance, insurance, real estate	65.8	69.0	67.7	68.5	68.5	69.3	69.9	69.9	69.7	69.7	69.8	70.0	70.3	70.2	70.2
Service and miscellaneous	243.1	258.2	255.2	258.7	258.5	259.3	259.7	259.0	261.3	261.0	261.1	261.5	261.1	263.1	265.1
Government	295.9	297.0	300.6	301.3	301.9	295.8	297.2	289.9	288.7	295.9	297.6	296.4	297.8	299.7	299.5
Federal	65.2	64.2	63.6	63.6	63.8	64.2	64.5	64.6	64.4	64.5	64.7	64.9	64.8	65.1	65.6
State and local	230.7	232.8	237.0	237.7	238.1	231.6	232.7	225.3	224.3	231.4	232.9	231.5	233.0	234.6	233.9

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA

Type of Activity	Annual		1986										1987		
	1985	1986	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT CONT.															
Other employment activity															
State Employment Service *(number)*															
Job applications	233,117	242,053	18,856	18,320	21,126	21,816	26,404	21,803	21,515	20,703	15,432	15,105	21,041	18,828	18,244
Nonagricultural placements	94,808	91,768	6,392	6,721	6,820	2,155	21,350	10,926	7,657	7,584	5,503	4,787	5,721	5,701	6,585
Unemployment compensation															
Initial benefit claims *(number)*	420,689	425,763	32,598	34,409	33,108	26,902	47,267	27,762	24,819	27,962	26,918	48,014	60,323	28,758	31,618
Payments *($1,000)*	172,910	186,826	15,660	15,851	15,026	13,394	16,966	14,178	13,789	14,936	13,061	18,326	20,424	16,289	17,109
County data *(civilian labor force and unemployment rate)*															
Autauga	15,257	15,694	15,330	15,350	15,760	15,760	16,030	15,870	15,970	16,220	16,160	15,800	15,870	15,960	15,770
	8.7	7.9	7.1	6.2	7.4	7.8	8.5	7.5	8.1	9.2	9.2	8.1	8.9	9.6	8.6
Baldwin	37,577	38,264	37,950	37,980	38,560	38,530	39,250	38,780	38,170	38,230	38,520	38,640	38,370	38,040	39,520
	7.7	8.9	9.2	8.8	8.7	8.7	9.5	8.0	8.3	8.2	8.8	10.0	10.1	9.5	12.6
Barbour	11,513	11,903	11,730	11,610	12,050	11,930	11,860	12,080	12,370	12,200	12,130	11,860	11,890	11,930	11,850
	10.5	9.5	10.1	9.7	10.5	10.0	9.2	9.6	10.6	9.3	9.0	8.4	9.0	10.4	9.4
Bibb	6,880	7,273	7,150	7,150	7,310	7,440	7,370	7,370	7,320	7,400	7,310	7,260	7,280	7,220	7,120
	12.4	13.3	12.6	14.5	13.4	13.0	11.5	11.6	11.4	11.5	14.0	16.0	16.8	14.7	13.4
Blount	17,227	16,682	17,300	16,490	16,790	16,760	16,740	16,760	16,740	16,730	16,830	16,780	16,840	16,680	17,070
	6.9	9.0	12.7	8.0	9.1	9.3	8.6	8.8	8.6	8.3	9.0	9.4	10.6	9.8	11.0
Bullock	3,678	3,971	3,740	3,880	4,120	4,050	4,080	4,030	4,060	4,180	4,080	3,950	3,840	3,770	3,750
	16.4	17.3	16.3	14.2	19.7	16.5	19.4	18.4	15.9	15.5	17.2	18.7	17.6	15.7	14.1
Butler	9,076	9,382	9,370	9,240	9,440	9,560	9,170	9,520	9,420	9,510	9,540	9,500	9,610	9,630	9,650
	12.3	11.7	10.9	12.2	11.6	15.1	11.6	11.7	11.6	11.3	11.4	11.0	11.8	14.0	13.5
Calhoun	49,983	51,892	51,500	51,500	51,940	51,910	52,560	52,370	52,420	52,410	52,260	51,890	51,850	51,600	51,760
	8.9	9.6	9.5	9.3	9.9	10.2	10.2	9.5	10.0	9.6	9.4	9.5	10.5	10.2	11.2
Chambers	16,933	17,241	17,230	17,070	17,340	17,200	17,840	17,540	17,260	17,140	17,110	17,040	17,020	17,000	17,010
	8.8	8.6	7.6	7.6	8.4	9.0	12.0	9.3	9.1	8.1	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.3
Cherokee	7,963	7,768	7,740	7,810	7,990	7,870	7,730	7,820	7,850	7,870	7,800	7,590	7,770	7,780	7,860
	14.7	13.5	23.7	14.7	13.3	13.6	12.6	11.0	10.2	10.9	11.5	12.0	12.0	12.0	17.3
Chilton	15,129	15,723	15,510	15,550	15,860	15,810	15,890	15,750	15,800	16,190	15,940	15,560	15,580	15,630	15,560
	10.3	10.6	10.1	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.5	9.3	10.0	11.4	12.7	13.0	13.9	12.2	11.9
Choctaw	6,541	7,481	8,050	7,580	7,490	7,660	7,730	7,550	7,180	7,390	7,350	7,070	6,980	6,860	7,060
	14.6	14.9	18.1	15.4	15.8	17.0	17.7	14.5	13.5	13.1	15.4	14.6	14.6	13.1	18.7
Clarke	11,044	11,363	11,170	11,220	11,320	11,410	11,430	11,480	11,360	11,590	11,570	11,570	11,590	11,520	11,480
	9.9	11.4	17.2	11.9	11.0	11.0	10.4	9.7	9.9	10.3	10.5	12.0	11.9	11.8	17.8
Clay	6,397	6,358	6,680	6,670	6,470	6,380	6,270	6,380	6,250	6,300	6,210	6,110	6,220	6,130	6,260
	11.1	15.0	21.3	24.9	25.7	12.0	11.5	11.8	12.9	12.3	9.7	8.5	11.2	10.9	20.8
Cleburne	5,766	5,719	5,510	5,730	5,780	5,700	5,750	5,890	5,930	5,800	5,640	5,680	5,630	5,490	5,310
	9.1	8.8	11.3	8.4	7.3	7.1	7.6	9.2	15.2	8.3	6.7	7.1	7.8	8.1	12.4
Coffee	17,034	17,625	17,350	17,440	17,850	17,590	17,510	18,070	18,040	18,250	17,910	17,260	17,000	16,950	17,070
	7.2	8.8	9.1	8.4	8.2	8.4	8.2	7.6	9.2	10.2	9.7	9.5	9.4	9.0	7.6
Colbert	24,545	24,628	24,370	24,770	24,960	24,660	25,020	25,020	24,860	24,730	24,540	24,500	24,360	24,340	23,940
	13.1	13.9	13.2	13.8	13.0	14.2	15.0	14.2	14.3	13.0	13.3	14.3	15.1	14.6	12.7
Conecuh	6,309	6,458	6,820	6,590	6,650	6,570	6,170	6,300	6,290	6,400	6,440	6,380	6,360	6,390	6,610
	10.8	16.0	16.8	15.5	15.2	15.7	12.7	15.3	15.4	17.3	17.9	19.5	20.9	23.1	25.4
Coosa	4,620	4,760	4,900	4,680	4,750	4,660	4,650	4,720	4,790	4,830	4,830	4,680	4,860	4,810	4,750
	7.5	8.0	7.3	8.9	9.4	10.3	8.7	8.1	7.4	7.5	7.1	6.3	7.3	6.7	7.0
Covington	17,128	17,224	16,950	16,940	17,420	17,170	17,260	17,240	17,490	17,620	17,710	17,310	17,340	17,270	17,250
	9.7	10.7	11.6	11.4	11.1	10.4	10.4	10.1	10.5	10.0	11.5	10.3	10.5	10.2	9.4
Crenshaw	6,104	6,187	6,180	5,950	6,330	6,140	6,120	6,280	6,430	6,480	6,370	6,180	6,080	6,210	6,260
	9.1	9.0	14.6	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.2	7.5	7.7	8.7	9.5	9.7	14.8	18.0
Cullman	30,433	31,390	30,920	30,960	31,720	31,660	31,680	31,730	32,030	32,490	31,900	31,160	30,830	30,890	30,900
	9.6	9.4	10.1	9.3	8.7	9.4	9.4	8.9	8.9	8.7	9.8	9.8	9.9	10.2	9.5
Dale	19,531	16,753	16,320	16,640	16,910	16,960	17,120	17,000	17,070	17,290	17,010	16,730	16,560	16,810	16,730
	7.4	10.1	10.6	10.7	10.4	11.2	11.0	10.1	10.1	9.5	8.9	8.7	9.2	10.1	9.2
Dallas	22,316	23,022	23,270	23,060	23,740	23,640	23,620	23,390	22,840	22,830	22,500	22,220	22,060	21,750	21,590
	15.0	15.9	15.5	15.0	15.5	17.0	15.8	15.4	15.2	15.6	16.4	16.8	16.0	14.7	13.9
DeKalb	27,461	28,748	28,190	28,170	29,180	29,170	29,540	29,810	29,510	29,400	29,060	28,390	28,360	28,450	28,230
	10.4	10.0	11.5	9.5	9.5	10.1	10.3	9.3	9.4	9.1	9.6	9.5	10.9	11.3	11.0
Elmore	20,784	21,013	20,710	20,870	21,340	21,160	21,320	21,290	21,180	21,310	21,420	21,090	21,070	20,900	20,800
	7.3	6.9	7.0	6.7	7.5	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.2	6.5	7.2	6.8	7.2	6.6	6.3
Escambia	16,738	17,061	17,250	17,130	17,330	17,100	17,210	17,330	17,110	17,040	16,930	16,750	16,770	16,590	16,900
	9.9	11.5	15.1	12.0	11.9	11.9	11.2	10.0	10.1	10.4	11.1	12.7	13.8	13.7	17.2
Etowah	42,225	43,954	44,690	43,980	44,960	44,050	44,800	44,390	43,840	43,700	43,750	43,350	43,270	42,930	42,880
	10.3	13.0	17.4	13.6	14.9	13.1	13.4	11.8	11.5	11.0	11.5	11.8	12.8	13.1	13.0
Fayette	8,229	8,028	8,140	8,110	8,110	7,840	7,850	8,030	8,070	8,060	8,030	7,910	7,840	7,840	7,720
	14.3	13.8	14.8	15.2	13.7	13.4	13.8	13.4	13.8	13.2	12.5	13.0	12.1	12.9	12.6
Franklin	15,046	15,310	15,340	15,250	15,200	15,310	15,930	15,740	15,120	15,210	15,180	14,880	15,340	15,190	15,020
	13.7	13.6	15.1	13.3	12.0	13.1	16.0	13.5	12.5	12.1	12.0	12.1	14.6	13.9	13.2
Geneva	10,714	11,047	10,770	10,870	11,310	11,290	11,400	11,340	11,400	11,590	11,040	10,650	10,460	10,370	10,510
	9.5	8.5	9.3	9.2	8.9	8.6	9.6	7.9	8.2	8.5	7.3	7.5	8.4	8.4	8.2
Greene	3,841	3,733	3,860	3,690	3,720	3,640	3,710	3,760	3,830	3,890	3,820	3,760	3,760	3,760	3,900
	17.6	15.9	19.1	15.2	14.5	15.9	15.8	15.4	15.1	15.4	15.6	17.1	17.3	17.0	19.7
Hale	5,891	5,986	5,780	5,790	6,100	5,990	6,010	6,170	6,230	6,290	6,230	6,060	6,070	6,050	6,140
	11.3	10.7	11.5	10.3	11.3	11.3	9.9	11.6	9.8	9.4	11.1	11.2	11.4	9.8	10.1
Henry	6,748	6,631	6,580	6,640	6,820	6,630	6,560	6,620	6,840	6,830	6,650	6,410	6,370	6,350	6,410
	10.6	9.7	11.6	11.2	9.1	9.7	10.0	8.7	9.1	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.2	7.7	7.4
Houston	33,718	39,734	38,610	39,550	39,960	39,760	40,540	40,160	40,320	40,890	40,530	40,050	39,400	39,520	39,560
	8.4	8.3	8.6	9.2	8.3	8.4	9.1	8.0	8.0	7.4	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.1
Jackson	20,483	20,968	21,010	20,720	21,030	21,240	20,980	21,000	21,050	21,150	21,370	20,710	20,730	20,720	20,600
	12.3	14.7	19.1	13.4	13.0	14.6	15.2	13.7	13.1	12.1	16.4	12.0	13.1	12.6	10.9
Jefferson	312,343	335,634	331,060	333,470	336,180	336,040	340,350	342,060	341,530	340,740	339,950	337,320	335,860	336,480	335,270
	6.9	7.7	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.7	8.3	8.8	8.6	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.5	8.7	7.6
Lamar	8,808	8,856	8,830	8,720	8,900	8,880	9,140	8,930	9,000	8,790	8,900	8,810	8,920	8,950	8,900
	8.0	8.9	8.3	8.2	8.5	8.6	11.4	9.5	10.5	9.1	8.6	8.7	8.9	9.3	8.2
Lauderdale	36,158	37,027	37,090	37,040	37,810	37,520	37,260	37,270	37,100	37,330	36,820	36,290	36,080	36,120	36,030
	10.9	11.6	11.9	11.0	11.3	12.9	11.9	11.0	11.2	11.0	10.7	10.6	11.5	11.1	10.3

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA

Type of Activity	Annual		1986										1987		
	1985	1986	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT CONT															
Lawrence	12,636 12.7	12,632 14.6	12,750 15.4	12,440 15.2	12,670 13.4	12,580 13.8	12,650 14.1	13,040 15.5	12,720 12.9	12,910 13.6	12,620 14.1	12,150 14.9	12,040 15.9	12,070 15.9	12,170 16.1
Lee	37,752 7.0	38,124 7.7	38,170 7.6	38,560 7.2	39,020 7.2	38,200 8.1	38,440 9.5	37,760 7.5	37,790 7.9	38,070 7.2	38,260 6.7	37,430 6.5	37,040 7.1	37,050 6.9	36,830 6.6
Limestone	27,043 7.1	29,806 8.9	29,520 9.9	29,520 8.8	30,220 8.7	29,940 9.1	29,910 9.3	29,900 11.1	30,460 7.5	30,570 8.0	30,330 7.9	29,730 8.0	29,720 8.5	29,230 8.2	29,200 8.1
Lowndes	4,636 14.1	4,525 15.8	4,530 13.4	4,400 14.9	4,560 15.1	4,400 19.0	4,420 18.0	4,590 18.7	4,670 16.5	4,720 16.4	4,750 16.6	4,580 16.0	4,350 17.9	4,390 17.5	4,430 16.7
Macon	10,453 8.5	10,693 9.0	10,520 8.8	10,560 8.5	10,850 9.5	10,820 10.0	10,910 9.8	10,850 9.1	10,760 8.1	10,910 9.2	10,710 8.4	10,650 8.5	10,480 7.7	10,430 6.8	10,430 6.6
Madison	117,762 5.9	126,253 7.2	123,690 7.2	124,240 6.7	126,420 6.7	128,530 7.8	128,590 7.5	128,380 7.9	128,380 7.6	128,630 7.5	128,660 7.3	127,930 7.2	126,610 7.0	126,190 6.9	126,360 6.6
Marengo	9,934 10.6	10,045 11.1	10,540 16.3	10,360 10.4	10,430 10.1	9,940 10.8	10,110 13.5	10,070 10.3	10,070 9.5	10,140 9.6	10,020 10.2	9,970 10.7	9,800 10.4	9,730 9.5	10,080 16.1
Marion	15,278 13.8	16,083 14.3	15,940 13.9	16,200 13.5	16,250 12.3	16,230 12.8	16,550 16.4	16,220 14.5	16,110 14.9	16,150 14.1	15,960 15.2	15,610 15.3	15,620 16.9	15,380 15.7	15,400 17.1
Marshall	35,615 8.7	37,011 11.8	37,390 17.5	36,330 11.0	37,080 11.1	37,360 12.1	38,250 14.0	37,450 10.9	37,380 10.5	37,000 10.3	37,020 11.1	36,420 10.4	36,300 10.7	36,380 10.8	36,270 10.2
Mobile	166,738 9.4	172,880 11.1	171,320 11.3	171,790 11.1	174,860 11.3	175,670 11.7	176,630 11.3	176,980 11.2	173,910 11.2	173,620 10.8	173,350 10.6	171,770 10.7	171,770 11.5	171,420 11.5	169,800 10.3
Monroe	9,085 13.5	9,649 13.3	10,630 29.0	9,480 14.2	9,580 12.0	9,380 11.3	9,520 10.5	9,760 9.8	9,720 9.2	9,750 10.2	9,810 12.6	9,650 15.1	9,740 14.3	9,780 14.5	10,070 28.1
Montgomery	91,901 7.2	97,695 7.6	95,710 7.2	96,860 7.3	99,120 8.1	98,730 8.1	99,450 8.0	99,110 7.5	99,020 7.5	99,750 7.8	99,480 7.9	97,830 7.4	97,510 7.5	97,280 7.4	96,980 7.3
Morgan	43,368 8.1	45,825 10.0	45,050 10.2	45,400 9.5	46,200 9.1	46,640 10.0	46,770 10.5	47,190 11.5	46,010 9.7	46,260 9.9	45,920 9.6	45,670 9.7	45,390 10.1	45,360 10.1	45,840 11.1
Perry	5,336 13.2	5,444 12.9	5,370 11.7	5,220 10.1	5,620 12.4	5,490 12.4	5,540 12.5	5,540 12.9	5,520 10.9	5,630 10.4	5,620 15.4	5,500 20.3	5,480 19.0	5,430 12.5	5,450 12.7
Pickens	6,965 15.2	7,558 14.7	7,120 14.8	7,260 14.7	7,880 14.2	7,560 14.3	7,690 14.7	7,900 15.5	7,870 13.6	8,050 15.0	7,750 15.1	7,520 15.5	7,470 15.6	7,390 15.0	7,280 15.1
Pike	11,773 8.0	12,612 8.6	12,420 8.6	12,560 7.9	12,830 8.4	12,640 8.8	12,490 9.5	12,650 9.5	12,980 7.5	13,190 8.4	13,030 8.4	12,210 9.1	12,630 8.3	12,650 8.6	12,650 8.3
Randolph	8,865 9.6	9,424 9.2	9,270 7.9	9,440 7.9	9,620 11.6	9,420 10.2	9,330 9.7	9,750 12.4	9,450 10.4	9,520 9.4	9,600 8.3	9,430 7.5	9,440 7.2	9,410 7.3	9,470 7.8
Russell	20,634 10.5	22,641 9.6	22,530 10.2	22,570 9.4	22,580 9.0	22,680 9.1	22,780 9.4	22,960 9.1	22,790 8.8	22,900 9.9	22,810 9.4	22,700 9.2	22,680 9.7	22,430 8.9	22,440 8.3
St. Clair	20,691 8.1	20,610 8.4	20,510 8.3	20,380 7.4	20,710 8.2	20,890 9.4	21,200 10.2	20,700 8.1	20,710 8.1	20,700 7.8	20,620 7.6	20,610 8.1	20,440 8.2	20,380 8.1	20,590 8.2
Shelby	34,261 7.0	37,153 6.8	36,580 5.8	36,830 6.0	37,260 6.5	37,310 7.0	37,510 6.9	37,310 6.5	37,320 6.5	38,170 8.3	37,440 6.6	37,340 7.0	37,010 7.2	37,010 7.2	37,080 6.5
Sumter	6,147 13.7	6,243 21.0	6,320 22.7	6,270 22.2	6,450 22.0	6,440 26.3	6,460 25.1	6,410 22.5	6,230 18.3	6,260 17.9	6,160 17.8	5,800 17.2	5,830 16.3	5,810 15.5	5,810 16.1
Talladega	31,537 13.1	32,143 12.4	31,580 12.1	31,840 12.1	32,310 12.0	32,310 12.7	32,810 13.6	32,950 13.0	32,660 13.1	32,590 12.4	32,350 12.0	32,170 11.9	32,110 12.5	32,160 12.2	32,290 12.4
Tallapoosa	18,258 8.2	19,101 8.0	18,440 7.7	18,700 6.9	19,210 7.9	19,400 8.8	19,640 9.3	19,720 8.2	19,430 7.7	19,360 7.5	19,350 6.9	19,110 6.5	19,060 7.5	19,010 7.1	19,130 7.8
Tuscaloosa	64,346 6.8	68,450 7.7	67,780 7.6	68,060 7.3	68,760 8.2	67,120 8.6	67,710 8.2	69,420 8.1	70,000 7.6	70,000 7.1	69,930 7.3	69,250 7.5	69,180 7.6	69,180 7.5	69,190 7.4
Walker	33,097 9.9	30,633 15.2	31,250 17.3	31,320 17.1	31,320 16.6	31,570 17.6	31,700 17.4	30,110 13.1	29,750 12.0	29,350 10.6	29,730 11.9	29,760 12.5	30,000 14.1	29,860 13.7	30,020 13.4
Washington	5,855 14.9	5,594 19.4	5,720 21.8	5,540 19.3	5,660 19.3	5,770 21.5	5,770 22.0	5,530 18.1	5,570 17.8	5,580 16.9	5,570 17.6	5,530 20.3	5,490 20.6	5,430 19.5	5,650 23.2
Wilcox	4,391 16.4	4,402 16.8	4,310 17.3	4,310 17.5	4,450 17.5	4,540 19.4	4,480 18.8	4,490 17.1	4,430 15.7	4,500 15.3	4,470 15.9	4,330 14.7	4,300 14.8	4,280 14.4	4,270 13.5
Winston	10,488 17.1	10,288 21.1	10,440 25.6	10,590 22.9	10,380 19.7	10,260 19.4	10,320 19.2	10,350 19.2	10,220 17.0	10,130 16.4	10,230 20.0	9,990 20.0	10,080 22.9	9,910 22.8	9,830 20.5
TRADE															
Foreign, through Port of Mobile															
Imports															
Value *($1,000)*	774,985	707,055	62,021	54,570	62,809	52,912	58,464	62,420	57,283	65,322	60,114	42,325			
Shipping weight *(1,000,000 lbs.)*	13,402	14,193	1,232	1,304	1,216	1,549	1,045	1,459	916	961	1,061	1,040			
Exports															
Value *($1,000)*	602,564	765,872	77,691	42,428	40,520	46,923	33,052	44,144	45,337	70,123	115,624	90,380			
Shipping weight *(1,000,000 lbs.)*	22,799	22,134	1,620	2,171	1,452	1,632	1,725	1,399	1,807	1,541	1,851	2,134			
Shipments by water, Port of Mobile[7] *(1,000 tons)*	38,242	38,701	2,937	2,709	3,415	3,262	2,934	2,691	3,307	3,122	3,746	3,387	2,253	2,421	3,023
Domestic															
Electric energy consumption, non-industrial purposes *(1,000,000 kwh)*	25,020	26,789	1,838	1,716	1,792	2,273	2,820	2,980	2,608	2,307	1,808	2,112	2,438	2,073	2,024
Gasoline sales[8] *(1,000 gallons)*	1,881,466	2,012,114	163,267	176,844	173,243	168,489	181,501	173,549	162,511	173,172	153,194	184,455	159,663	150,881	150,881
New passenger car registrations[9] *(number)*	153,540	159,481	12,333	12,818	13,221	14,427	15,309	13,908	19,150	11,691	10,048	12,133	8,953	10,243	11,477

NOTE: Throughout this table, details do not necessarily add to totals due to rounding.

[1]Estimated total for calendar month based on adjustment of weekly data.

[2]Individual months may not add to annual totals due to late revisions in annual data.

[3]These data may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of Dodge/DRI Construction and Real Estate Information Service.

[4]End-of-month balance.

[5]Beginning January 1978, the Consumer Price Index consists of "All Urban Consumers." Prior to that date, it included only "Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers." Historical data will not be available due to the change in coverage. No "Energy" data are available prior to 1978, and "Housing" data prior to January 1978 are not comparable to the new "Housing" series due to a change in definition.

[6]Civilian labor force, unemployment, and total employment are adjusted by place of residence, and total nonagricultural employment and its components are by place of work. All monthly data are adjusted to a March benchmark of the previous year.

[7]Includes both inbound and outbound shipments by water moving through private facilities as well as through the Alabama State Docks; excludes tonnage for military installations.

[8]Gross gallons of gasoline as reported by wholesale distributors.

[9]These data may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of R.L. Polk and Company.

Retail Trade Announcement

The Center for Business and Economic Research has monitored retail trade activity in the State of Alabama on a continuous basis since 1939. Regular estimates of retail sales activity provide an excellent measure of the overall economic health of the Alabama economy. In addition, retail sales estimates by category or type of sale serve as excellent indicators of consumer spending patterns and retail growth within the State.

Without the help of the Alabama Department of Revenue, such estimates would not be possible. As a part of a continuing program to improve the series, the Revenue Department entered into a major project to re-evaluate the classification to which each retail firm is assigned. Further, a major survey was undertaken to better estimate the proportion of retail sales of major retailers taking place in individual counties throughout Alabama.

These efforts, along with recent changes in the mainframe computer at The University of Alabama, have necessitated an extensive revision and rewrite of the computer software used to manage the retail sales data. And while we have made considerable progress, we believe it is in the best interest of our users to suspend publication of the retail trade series while we test the new computer programs and rebenchmark the retail trade series from 1979 to the current period.

As many industries often state when they remodel old facilities, "please pardon our progress." We sincerely regret the inconvenience that this brief suspension will cause our readers. We are confident that the revised series will better serve users of Alabama Business. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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